

*** ORIGINAL LETTER DATED 07/25/2003 ***

Mrs. Linda Levy, Assistant Secretary
Office of Environmental Services
Louisiana Department of
Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 4313
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Re: Report of FY'03 Midyear Review of Louisiana's
Administration of the LPDES Permit Program

Dear Ms. Levy:

In accordance with Section I.B. of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Region 6, representatives of the Permits Branch and the Customer Service Branch of the Water Quality Protection Division conducted a FY'03 midyear program review of the LPDES permitting and administration programs on March 13-14, 2003. Enclosed is the FY'03 midyear report of our findings concerning the administration of the permitting portion of the LPDES program by the State of Louisiana. Also, enclosed, for clarification, is a written response to your May 29, 2003, comments on the draft of the FY'03 midyear report.

Some of the topics discussed in the report include, but are not limited to, program strengths and concerns, permit issuance, backlog and productivity, whole effluent toxicity requirements, and staffing levels/reorganization. EPA recognizes the participation of LDEQ's staff and managers in discussing the permit backlog and addressing complex permitting issues. The Region is committed to working with you and your staff to resolve issues of concern.

We thank you for your assistance and cooperation during our review. Please forward any response/comments to the appropriate items listed under requested actions within thirty (30)

days of receipt of this report. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (214) 665-7100 or have your staff contact Gloria Vaughn at (214) 665-7535.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED BY

Paulette S. Johnsey
Acting Chief
NPDES Branch

Enclosures

cc: Michael Vince, Administrator
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

Jim Delahoussaye, Technical Advisor
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality